



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) SOMALIA: Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly
(PAWW) Report
(Horn of Africa) for 20 – 26 December 2012**

27 December 2012

Maritime Crime/Piracy

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report is a review of recent Somali piracy incidents and an outlook on threats around the Horn of Africa.

2. (U) Piracy Events Over Past Week

(U) Somali pirate activity is at low levels. There were no reported vessel attacks during this one week period. There were no vessels reported as hijacked during this one week period.

A. (U) Details

(U) Vessels Hijacked: No current incidents to report.

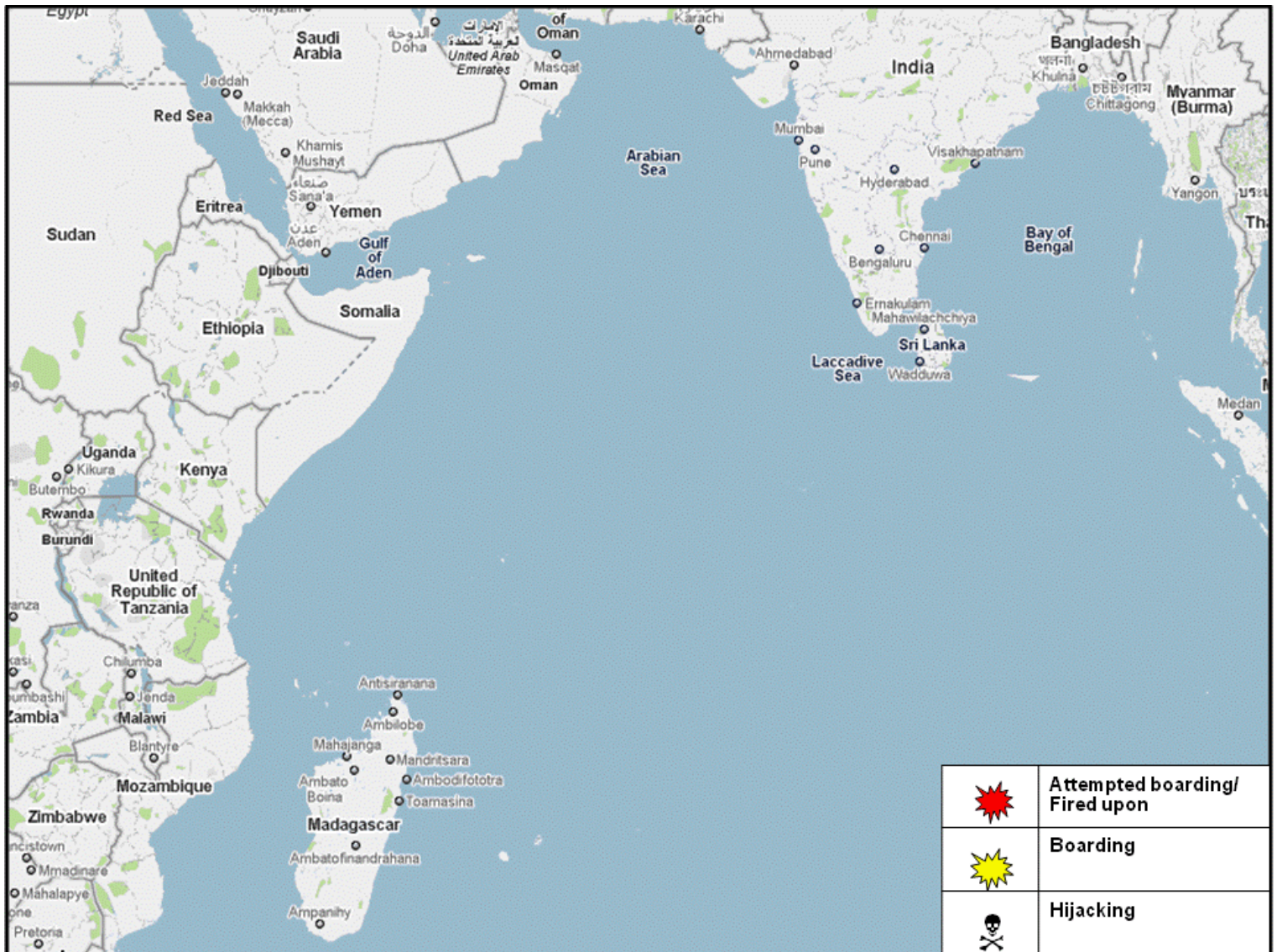
(U) Vessels Boarded: No current incidents to report.

(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings: No current incidents to report.

(U) Other Activity:

- (1) (U) OMAN:** Merchant vessel experienced suspicious approach at 0535 UTC on 27 December near positions 26:17 N – 056:43 E in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 22 nm east of Al Kasab, Oman. The activity consisted of two skiffs, with the first skiff approaching the merchant ship to within 500 meters; with possible weapons sighted. Vessel's armed embarked security team fired flares and the skiff moved away. The second skiff approached to within 200 meters. Embarked security team again fired a warning flare but there was no response from the second skiff. Vessel security team then fired two warning shots to the side of the second skiff. Skiffs then broke off the approach and departed the area. Vessel is safe. (NSC)

- (2) (U) **SOMALIA:** Puntland authorities rescued 22 hostages associated with the hijacked M/V ICEBERG 1 on 23 December. Pirates had held the crewmembers for almost 33 months. The status of the vessel is unknown. (UPI, ONI)



(U) Figure 1. HOA Pirate Activity, 20 – 26 December

(U) Figure 1 is a visual depiction of the incidents detailed in above summary of events.

C. (U) Tabulated Data

	This Week	Last Week	Dec. 2012	Nov. 2012	2012	2011	2010	2009
Vessels Hijacked	0	0	0	0	7	27	51	52
Boarding	0	1	1	0	1	17	16	0
Vessels Fired Upon/ Attempted Boarding	0	0	0	0	24	122	119	129

(U) Table 1 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years.

3. Currently Hijacked Vessels

Name	Flag	Type	Hijacked Date
ICEBERG 1	Panama	RoRo	29 March 2010
ALBEDO	Malaysia	Container Cargo	25 November 2010
ROYAL GRACE	Panama	Chemical Tanker	2 March 2012
NAHAM 3	Oman	Fishing Vessel	26 March 2012
SMYRNI	Liberia	Crude Oil Tanker	10 May 2012

4. Weather Forecast for 27 December 2012 – 2 January 2013

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: East-southeast winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with variable winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Winds in the Western portion (ENE 8 – 12 and seas (2 – 4 feet), while in the Eastern portion winds (NE 8 – 12) and seas (2 – 4 feet).

B. (U) SOMALI COAST: North-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Northeast winds of 18 – 22 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet, building to 5 – 7 feet.

C. (U) ARABIAN SEA: Northeast winds of 6 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** North-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.

D. (U) CENTRAL AFRICAN COAST/INDIAN OCEAN: East-southeast winds of 6 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** North-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

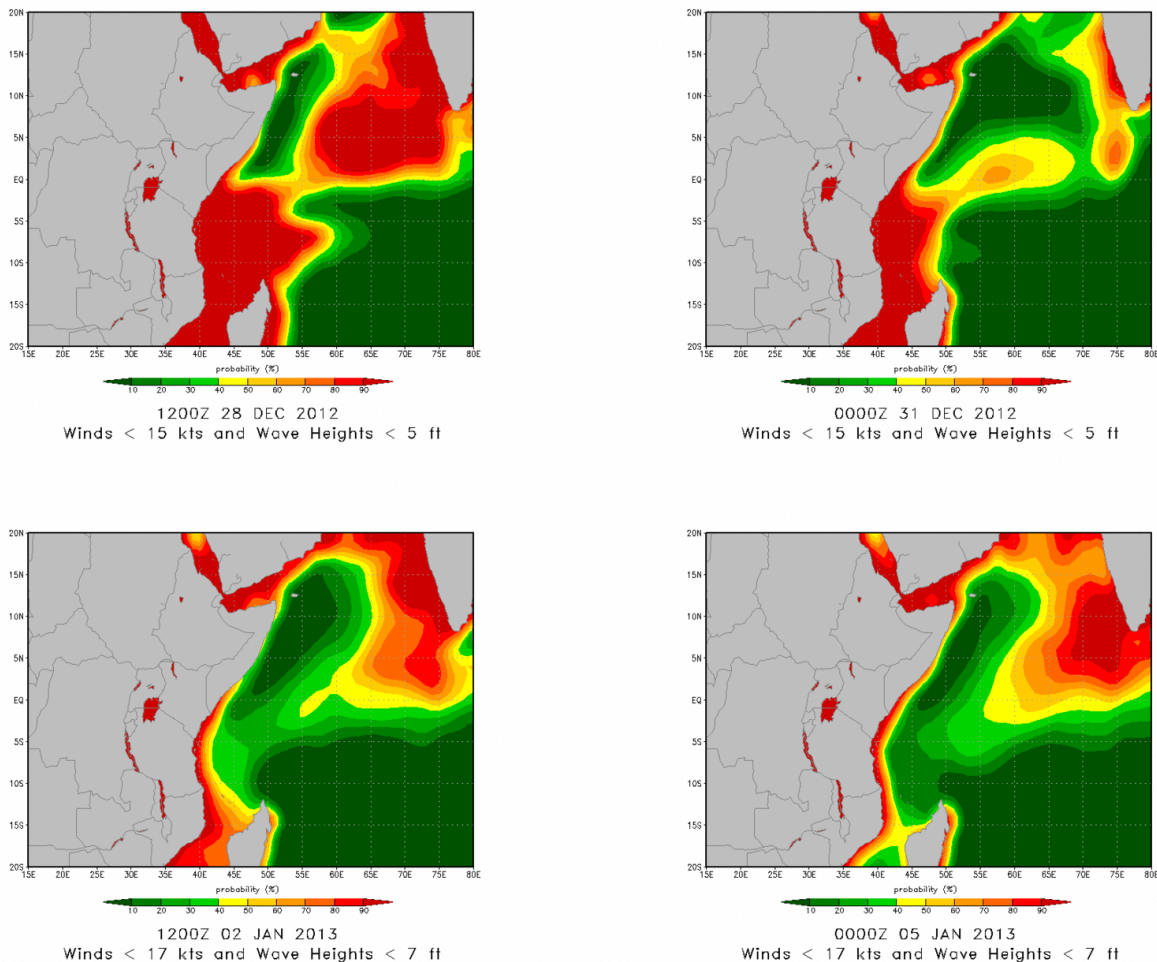
E. (U) MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL: Variable winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with variable winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Variable winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel, with south-southeast winds of 8 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.

F. (U) SURFACE CURRENTS: The northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of less than 1 knot. Current speeds along the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 knots.

5. (U) Graphic Aids to 10 Day Weather Conditions and Small Boat Operations Capabilities

Approved for Public Release

10 Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast



Approved for Public Release

(U) Figure 2. Ten-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast (Graphic courtesy of the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, FNMOC)

(U) In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity.

(U) Appendix

(U) Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting, and it also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity, are independent of target vessel status, and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities.

(U) Terms of Reference

(U) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity by an unknown vessel.

(U) Piracy levels

- (U) **High:** More than 7 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- (U) **Moderate:** 3–6 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- (U) **Low:** 1–2 piracy incidents in this one-week period

(U) Sourcing

(U) Information contained in this report is derived through direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources:

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark

- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Latitude38.com (LAT) website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local Media (LM)
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), U.S.
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Brussels
- Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
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(U) **ICOD:** 26 December 2012

(U) **Contributors:** Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:

http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm